

REMARKS

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Shin, U.S. Patent 6,798,049. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusions. However, Applicants have cancelled Claims 27-31 to expedite prosecution of the subject patent application.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claim 1, 8-10, 12, 14, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shin, U.S. Patent 6,798,049 in view of Jones, U.S. Patent 5,639,695. The Examiner further rejected Claims 2-7, 13, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shin et al. and Jones as cited above and further in view of Fukui, U.S. Patent 6,657,290.

Under MPEP 706.02(1)(1), prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103 via 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is now disqualified as prior art if owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Applicants respectfully point out that Shin was commonly owned by Amkor Technology, Inc. at the time the present invention was made. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit

that Shin is not a valid reference under 35 U.S.C. §103.

As Shin has been eliminated as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §103, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Jones nor Fukui show or anticipate the claimed invention. Therefore, for the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is overcome.

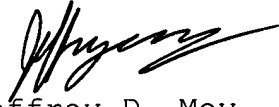
Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' claimed invention is deserving of patent protection because it describes a useful and functioning apparatus which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment Letter, in view of the Remarks offered in conjunction therewith, are fully responsive to all aspects of the objections and rejections tendered by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that they have persuasively demonstrated that the above-identified Patent Application, including Claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

If the foregoing does not place the case in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned for purposes of a telephone interview.

If there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter,
please deduct them from our Deposit Account NO. 23-0830.

Respectfully submitted,



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